

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 522
By Turner B

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the staff of the Brainerd High School *Varsity Scholar* upon winning seven awards in the 2003 Tennessee State Press Association's high school newspaper competition.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those young people who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as award-winning journalists; and

WHEREAS, the staff members of the Brainerd High School student newspaper, the *Varsity Scholar*, are distinguished journalists who recently earned seven awards in the 2003 Tennessee State Press Association's high school newspaper competition; and

WHEREAS, the *Varsity Scholar* received a "Superior" award for outstanding work in secondary journalism (overall), marking the first time that a student newspaper has won the Superior award in its first year of competition; and

WHEREAS, last year, Brainerd High School partnered with the *Chattanooga Times Free Press* to encourage students at the school to develop an interest in journalism; and

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WHEREAS, since that time, the *Varsity Scholar* has expanded from printing a newsletter a few times per year to publishing a tabloid-size newspaper each month; and

WHEREAS, this award-winning year has sparked an unprecedented interest in journalism among the newspaper's student staff members; and

WHEREAS, under the able leadership of Brainerd High School English and Journalism teacher, Greg Cantrell, the *Varsity Scholar* staff includes Tamara Armour, Monesha Brewer, Amanda Denton, Alan Puckett, Jr., Michael Hash, Rickeeta Rowland, LaKesha Thompson, and Nakia Woods; and

WHEREAS, the editorial staff includes Managing Editor, Jerria Garth; News Editor, Stephanie Woodruff; and Sports Editor, Andre Robinson; and

WHEREAS, in addition to receiving the Superior award from the Tennessee State Press Association, a number of staff members won individual awards: LaKesha Thompson and Monesha Brewer each placed first in news story; Nakia Woods placed first in sports story; Andre Robinson placed first in sports photography and placed second in sports story; Stephanie Woodruff earned honorable mention honors in newspaper in-depth reporting; and Nakia Woods earned honorable mention honors in columns; and

WHEREAS, the student staff members of the Brainerd High School *Varsity Scholar* have achieved a great measure of success in the realm of high school journalism, and they should be specially recognized for their hard work and remarkable achievements; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Greg Cantrell and the student staff members of the Brainerd High School *Varsity Scholar* on their most impressive journalistic work, congratulate them upon earning seven awards in the Tennessee State Press Association's high school newspaper competition, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.